NUMB. CCCXXXIV.

The SPECTATOR.

Quales Threiciæ cùm flumina Thermodoontis
Pulsant, & pictis bellantur Amazones armis:
Seu circum Hippolyten, seu cùm se Martia curru
Pentheſilea refert, magnoque ululante tumultu
Feminea exultant lunatis agmina peltis. Virg.

Friday, July 13. 1712.

HAVING carefully peruſed the Manuſcript I mentioned in my Yeſterday's Paper, ſo far as it relates to the Republick of Women, I find in it ſeveral Particulars which may well deſerve the Reader's Attention.

The Girls of Quality, from ſix to twelve Years old were put to Publick Schools, where they learned to Dance and play at Cudgels, with ſeveral other Accomplishments of the ſame Nature; ſo that nothing was more uſual than to ſee a little Miſs returning Home at Night with a broken Pate, or two or three Teeth knocked out of her Head. They were afterwards taught to ride the great Horſe, to Shoot, Dart, Sling, and liſted into ſeveral Companies, in order to inſect themſelves in Military Exerciſes. No Woman was to be married till ſhe had killed her Man. The Ladies of Faſhion uſed to play with young Lions inſtead of Lap-dogs, and when they met in any Parties of Diverſion, inſtead of entertaining themſelves at Ombre or Piquet, they would wreſtle and pitch the Bar for a whole Afternoon together. There was never any ſuch thing as a Bluſh known, or a Sigh heard, in the Commonwealth. The Women never dreſſed but to look terrible, to which purpoſe they would ſometimes after a Battel paint their Cheeks with the Blood of their Enemies. For this reaſon likewiſe the Face that had the moſt Scars was looked upon as the moſt beautiful. If they had Lace. Jewels, Ribbons, or any Ornaments in Silver or Gold, among the Booty which they had taken, they uſed to dreſs their Horſes with it, but never entertained a Thought of wearing it themſelves. There were particular Rights and Privileges allowed to any Member of the Commonwealth, who was a Mother of three Daughters. The Senate was made up of old Women; for by the Laws of the Country none was to be a Councellor of State that was not paſt Child-bearing. They uſed to boaſt that their Republick had continued Four thouſand Years, which is altogether improbable, unleſs we may ſuppoſe, what I am very apt to think, that they meaſured their Time by *Lunar* Years.

There was a great Revolution brought about in this Female Republick, by means of a Neighbouring King, who had made War upon them ſeveral Years with various Succeſs, and at length overthrew them in a very great Battel. This Defeat they aſcribe to ſeveral Cauſes; ſome ſay that the Secretary of State having been troubled with the Vapours, had committed ſome fatal Miſtakes in ſeveral Diſpatches about that Time. Others pretend, that the firſt Miniſter being big with Child, could not attend the Publick Affairs, as ſo great an Exigency of State required; but this I can give no manner of Credit to, ſince it ſeems to contradict a Fundamental Maxim in their Government, which I have before mentioned. My Author gives the moſt probable Reaſon of this great Diſaſter; for he affirms, that the General was brought to Bed, or (as others ſay) Miſcarried the very Night before the Battel: However it was, this ſignal Overthrow obliged them to call in the Male Republick to their Aſſiſtance; but notwithſtanding their Common Efforts to repulſe the Victorious Enemy, the War continued for many Years before they could entirely bring it to a happy Concluſion.

The Campaigns which both Sexes paſſed together made them ſo well acquainted with one another,

ther, that at the end of the War they did not care for parting. In the beginning of it they lodged in separate Camps, but afterwards as they grew more familiar, they pitched their Tents promiſcuouſly.

From this time the Armies being Chequered with both Sexes, they poliſhed apace. The Men uſed to invite their Fellow-Soldiers into their Quarters, and would dreſs their Tents with Flowers and Boughs, for their Reception. If they chanced to like one more than another, they would be cutting her Name in the Table, or Chalking out her Figure upon a Wall, or talking of her in a kind of rapturous Language, that by degrees improved into Verſe and Sonnet. Theſe were as the firſt Rudiments of Architecture, Painting and Poetry among this Savage People. After any Advantage over the Enemy, both Sexes uſed to Jump together and make a Clattering with their Swords and Shields, for Joy, which in a few Years produced ſeveral Regular Tunes and Sett Dances.

As the two Armies romped together on theſe Occaſions, the Women complained of the thick buſhy Beards and long Nails of their Confederates, who immediately took care to prune themſelves into ſuch Figures as were moſt pleaſing to their Female Friends and Allies.

When they had taken any Spoils from the Enemy, the Men would make a Preſent of every thing that was Rich and Showy to the Women whom they moſt admired, and would frequently dreſs the Necks, or Heads, or Arms of their Miſtreſſes, with any thing which they thought appeared Gay or Pretty. The Women obſerving that the Men took delight in looking upon 'em, when they were adorned with ſuch Trappings and Gugaws, ſet their Heads at Work to find out new Inventions, and to out-ſhine one another in all Councils of War or the like ſolemn Meetings. On the other Hand, the Men obſerving how the Womens Hearts were ſet upon Finery, begun to Embelliſh themſelves and look as agreeably as they could in the Eyes of their Aſſociates. In ſhort, after a few Years converſing together, the Women had learnt to Smile, and the Men to Ogle, the Women grew Soft, and the Men Lively.

When they had thus inſenſibly formed one another, upon the finiſhing of the War, which concluded with an entire Conqueſt of their common Enemy, the Colonels in one Army married the Colonels in the other; the Captains in the ſame manner took the Captains to their Wives: The whole Body of Common Soldiers were matched, after the Example of their Leaders. By this means the two Republicks incorporated with one another, and became the moſt Flouriſhing and Polite Government in the Part of the World which they Inhabited.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Perſons of Quality.

By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Friday, being the 18th Day of July, will be preſented a Play call'd Sophoniſba, or Hannibal's Overthrow. The Part of Maſſiniſſa to be perform'd by Mr. Booth. Sophoniſba by Mrs. Bracegirdle, Roſalinda by Mrs. Bradſhaw. To which will be added the laſt new Farce (of one Act only) call'd the Petticoat Plotter, the Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr. Pinkethman, Mr. Norris, Mr. Pack and Mr. Bullock Jun. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

AT the Theatre in Greenwich, to morrow being the 19th Inſtant, will be preſented the Love of Bajazet and Medea, after the Italian Manner. Perform'd by Mr. Leveridge and Mrs. Lindſey. Intermixt with ſeveral Concertos and Dances by the Actors particularly, a Dance of four Scaramuches, the Drunken Skipper, the Merry Miller and his Wife, with other Dancing. With a new Prologue ſet to Muſick, and ſung by Mr. Leveridge and Mrs. Lindſey. The Boxes will be laid open to the Pit for that Day. The price of each Ticket 3 s. Tickets to be had at the Tilt-yard Coffee-houſe at Nando's within Temple bar, at John's in Swan-alley in Cornhill, and at Greenwich.

Miſcellanies, or Amuſements in Verſe and Proſe. By Mr. Ezekiel Morrice. Sold by Daniel Browne at the Black Swan and Bible without Temple bar, and A. Baldwin at the Oxford Arms in Warwick-lane.

Is continued to be Sold the remaining part of Twenty Hogſheads of neat French Brandy, full proof, and of the flavour, at 94 l. by the Tun, and at 8 s. a Gallon for any Quantity leſs than a Hogſhead: At the Black Lyon over-againſt Mercer's Chapel in Cheapſide, where conſtant Attendance will be given till all Sold.

Juſt Publiſhed, the Second Edition of

The Diſtreſt Mother. Tragedy. As it is acted at the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane. By her Majeſty's Servants. Written by Mr. Phillips. Printed for S. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and J. Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over against Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

The Retir'd Gard'ner, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Making, Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden, together with the Manner of Planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Shrubs and Under-Shrubs, neceſſary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. To which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Diſpoſing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Columns, and other Pieces and Compartments uſually found in the moſt Beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Tranſlation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To which is added, a Deſcription and Plan of Count Tallard's Garden at Nottingham. The whole Reviſ'd, with ſeveral Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our Engliſh Culture, by George London, and Henry Wiſe. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

Letters and Negotiations of the Count D' Eſtrades Ambaſſador from Lewis the Fourteenth to the States General of the United Provinces of the Low Countries: From the Year 1663 to the Year 1669. Conſiſting chiefly of Original Letters and Inſtructions from the French King and his Miniſters, to the ſaid Count with his Anſwers. Wherein are ſeveral ſecret Tranſactions between the Courts of England and France during that time. Tranſlated from Several Hands. In Three Volumes. Printed for D. Brown, J. Tonſon, A. and J. Churchil, J. Knapton, R. Knaplock, G. Strahan, J. Senger, and J. Pemberton.

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